

Obituary.

GEORGE MANLEY HOPWOOD, F.C.S., F.I.C.

DIED 23RD JULY, 1883.

GEORGE MANLEY HOPWOOD was born at Plymouth in 1846. While still very young he lost both his parents, and was taken under the care of a distant relative in Edinburgh; she and her husband, the Rev. Mr. Rowbottom, adopting him and treating him with the utmost kindness. His education was obtained at the well-known school—the Edinburgh Academy, and on its completion he was apprenticed to a druggist of Edinburgh. Here his taste for chemistry received some little encouragement, and he devoted himself to the study of the science. As a step towards the prosecution of chemistry as the business of his life, he engaged as assistant to Dr. Stephenson Macadam, of the Surgeons' Hall, Edinburgh, brother of one of the founders of this society. Here he worked at analyses for commercial purposes, and became expert in the chemistry of manures and agricultural products. When about twenty years of age he joined Dr. Angus Smith, F.R.S., of Manchester, where he not only gained a further insight into general analytical work, but also took part in some of Dr. Smith's researches on the cattle plague, and the air of mines. He rose to the position of chief assistant in Dr. Smith's laboratory. He then associated himself with Mr. Edward Hunt, B.A., of Manchester, in researches for technical purposes, especially on the nature of dyes. He was apparently just entering on a department of inquiry in which he might have won a distinguished name, when failing health forced him to leave England. He landed in Melbourne in 1873, and spent some time in recruiting his greatly weakened constitution. The Victorian climate suited him so well that he determined to stay here, and obtained a position in the Mining Department, there being then no opening in his own profession. But ere long he received an appointment as assistant in the Assay Department of the Mint; he was also made assistant to Mr. Geo. Foord, for the examination of gas for the City of Melbourne. He was at various times employed by the Government for the Department of Agriculture, and was one of the chemical experts at the Melbourne International Exhibition.

He died at Hawthorn on 23rd July, 1883. Mr. George Foord thus speaks of him:—"He was characterised by patient and modest industry, watchful attention, and earnest zeal. He had accumulated a considerable store of special knowledge in connection with industrial and commercial chemistry, and excelled in the neatness and method of his work."

SÜETONIUS HENRY OFFICER.

DIED 26TH JULY, 1883.

SÜETONIUS HENRY OFFICER was the third son of Sir Robert Officer, of Tasmania, and was born at New Norfolk, in that colony, in the year 1830. He was sent to Edinburgh for his education, and was destined for the Navy, but after entering a military school for a short time he followed the bent of his own inclination, and returned to the colonies, where he and his brother founded a fine station on the River Murray. For many years his life was the busy and enterprising one of a pioneer squatter, but he reaped the fruits of it in gathering a fine freehold property round him. He had always been of a scientific turn, and devoted much of his attention to the question of irrigation and rainfall; for nearly twenty years continuously he forwarded to the Sydney Observatory daily observations of the rainfall and of the height of the River Murray. His arrangements for the irrigation of his own lands were ingenious, and he did his best to impress on his neighbours the desirability of adopting similar means of turning their dry lands into green pastures. He was extremely interested in the question of acclimatisation, and took a large share in the practical work necessary in carrying it on. He was the first to acclimatise the ostrich in Australia, and by the sacrifice of time, labour, and money he had the satisfaction of seeing the industry settled on a lucrative basis. He was in his later life devoted to astronomy, and had a fine telescope, with which he did a little amateur work. In 1881 he gave up the personal superintendence of his station, and fixed his residence in Melbourne, but his health was then too much broken for him to attend the meetings of our Society, or to undertake any work for us.

A brief illness terminated a life of useful industry on the evening of the 26th July, 1883. Though not in any strict sense of the word a scientific man, he had the happy faculty of making scientific work a relaxation and amusement amid a busy life; and of turning that knowledge, whose acquisition gave him so great a pleasure, into a means of profit and advantage to his neighbours and the whole community.
